Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 /078 W

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R 061515Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9044

INFO SECDEF

JCS

USCINCEUR

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USDOCOSOUTH

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

UNCLAS ATHENS 4203

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, GR, US

SUBJECT: FURTHER GOG DENIAL OF US MILITARY BASE TRANSFERS TO CRETE

REF: ATHENS 3883

1. DURING PAST WEEK A NUMBER OF REPORTS HAVE APPEARED IN RIZOSPASTIS (EXTERNAL COMMUNIST) AND AVGHI (INTERNAL COMMUNIST) BELABORING THE THEME THAT US FORCES PLANNED TO MOVE PERSONNEL AND ACTIVITIES FROM GREEK MAINLAND TO CRETE AND REPORTING AGITATION AGAINST THIS PUTATIVE INTENTION OF THE US FORCES AMONG VARIOUS CRETAN ORGANIZATIONS. THIS PRESS CAMPAIGN, AND THE AGITATION IT HAS FOSTERED ON CRETE, LED TO A JUNE 5 MEETING WITH DEFMIN AVEROFF OF ALL DEPUTIES FROM CRETE, REGARDLESS OF PARTY, TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION, AND ALSO PROMPTED DEPUTY NIKITAS VENIZELOS (CU/NF, CHANEA) TO POSE A TELEGRAPHIC QUERY TO AVEROFF.

2. JUNE 6 PRESS REPORTS QUOTE AVEROFF'S REPLY AS FOLLOWS: QTE I CATEGORICALLY REASSURE YOU AND I REPEAT AGAIN THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION WHATSOEVER OF THE TRANSFER OF SUCH U.S. BASES OR THEIR PERSONNEL FROM THE MAINLAND OF GREECE TO CRETE. UNCLASSIFIED

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AT THE CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS NOW BEING CARRIED OUT,

ALL SUCH U.S. BASES, WHEREVER THEY ARE LOCATED IN GREECE, WILL BE PLACED UNDER GREEK COMMAND AND CONTROL. THE SIZE OF SOME OF THESE BASES WILL BE REDUCED. U.S. BASES REMAINING IN GREECE WILL BE USED FOR THE COUNTRY'S SECURITY. THEREFORE, ACCEPT THE FACT THAT SUCH ANXIETIES ARE INEXCUSABLE AND THAT EVERY REACTION IS CONTRARY TO THE NATION'S INTERESTS. UNQUOTE. KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, MILITARY BASES, CRETE, MILITARY BASE CLOSINGS, NEGOTIATIONS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 06 JUN 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Authority: n/a Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Camment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a

Disposition Reason: Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1975ATHENS04203 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750199-0115

From: ATHENS

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750671/aaaacmyy.tel

Line Count: 69

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION EUR Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a Previous Classification: 11/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ATHENS 3883
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 04 MAR 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAR 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <02 FEB 2004 by greeneet>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: FURTHER GOG DENIAL OF US MILITARY BASE TRANSFERS TO CRETE

TAGS: MARR, GR, US To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006